World Bank Assistance to GAIL

*240. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has offered its assistance to GAIL (India) in financing and consultancy, development of gas pipe network in India and also use of gas in agriculture sector as well as rural areas;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this, World Bank also has agreed to assist in development of strategies for improving the domestic gas production and also carrying out studies on efficient use of natural gas in different sectors;

(c) if so, whether GAIL has accepted the offer; and

(d) if so, by when the work on these projects are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MULI DEORA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(d) and (d) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Hike in airfare of Gulf Sector

1484. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national carriers used to hike the airfare of Gulf countries during peak seasons *viz.* vacation and other festival seasons;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether steps will be taken to withdraw such hike in airfare by the national carriers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Both Air India and Indian airlines are commercial organizations and respond to market requirements depending upon competition, demand supply, seasonality, frequency, timings, direct/